Executive Director
Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Distinguished delegates,

Agenda Item 3: Executive Director’s Briefing to the CPR

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The Group thanks the Executive Director for the advance written briefing which we received on 16 June, 2017, as well as his oral briefing today.

We note that the briefing enumerates the Missions that the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director undertook during the intervening period. The Group is convinced that these Missions play an important role in raising the profile of UN-Habitat as well as enhancing partnerships and the collaboration between UN-Habitat and other United Nations Organizations on one hand, and Governments and other stakeholders on the other.

Mr. Chairman,

The briefing by the ED also covers key portfolio developments in the various regions and we are happy to be briefed on a new project from the African region in Sao Tome and Principle. The Group looks forward to the implementation of more and bigger projects on the African continent.
Agenda Item 4: Quarterly report on the Financial Status of UN-Habitat

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

The Africa Group wishes to thank the Executive Director/Director Budget for the presentation of the Quarterly Report on the Financial Status of the organization.

Analysis of the Quarterly Reports presented at the 63rd and 64th Regular Meetings and the current report reveals a continuous pattern of dwindling financial resources most especially that of the Foundation General Purpose Fund. This matter needs urgent attention in order to keep the organization in position to effectively discharge its important mandate, including additional work arising from the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The group echoes the call by President Uhuru Kenyatta during the GC-26 for Member States, in position to do so, to provide the requisite financial resources to the organisation.

We wish to emphasize the need to strengthen resource mobilisation. This call was echoed in the GC-26 Resolution on the Revised Strategic Plan for 2014-2019 and the Work Programme and Budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2018-2019, which calls on the Executive Director to “adopt effective measures and to enhance efforts to broaden the donor base of the Foundation General Purpose Budget, in consultation with member States and in accordance with the programme’s resource mobilisation strategy”.

**Agenda Item 7: Working Group on Work Programme and Budget**

The Africa Group values the contributions of the Working Group on Work Programme and Budget. That is why we supported extension of its mandate at the last Governing Council. We are happy the Working Group has been able to cover a lot of ground in understanding issues pertaining to performance of UN-Habitat. We urge the Executive Director to implement all its recommendations fully and in a timely manner.

Regarding our representation in the Working Group, we wish to advise the meeting that the Group is almost concluding consultations on the matter and will be submitting the names of our representatives early next week.
Agenda Item 8: Report on the recently concluded twenty-sixth session of the UN-Habitat (GC26)

The Africa Group thanks the Executive Director for the briefing. We were encouraged by the spirit of consensus and compromise that resulted in adoption, by consensus, of all the 9 resolutions. Africa sponsored three resolutions on promoting effective implementation, follow up and review of the New Urban Agenda, the World Urban Forum, and promoting safety in cities.

Regarding the effective implementation of the NUA, the Group remains very supportive of the central focal point role that the UN-Habitat must play in the process. In this regard, we note that the first quadrennial report should be submitted to the ECOSOC in April 2018. This is a very important matter and we, as Member States, would like to be fully involved in the preparation of that report.

Therefore, we request the Executive Director to provide information to Member States about the mechanism that UN-Habitat has put in place to ensure smooth preparation of the report. For instance, which department has been given the coordination role in preparing the report. This is important as we would like to start the consultations with the assigned department or unit for timely preparation of the report.

Concerning preparations of WUF-9, the Governing Council agreed that it be based in Nairobi so that process can benefit from the participation and guidance of the CPR. In this regard we request the ED to commence these consultations without further delay.

We recall that the resolution called for the announcement of the host for WUF-11 at WUF9 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We have since established that, in practice, the request for Member States to express interest to host the next WUF session is usually presented during the GC or the current WUF session. We note that on the basis of a decision on WUF resolution the Secretariat has sent out a note to Member States requesting their expression of interest to host WUF-11.
We, however, note that WUF 11 will take place in five years’ time from now, in 2022 and a lot will have happened in the interim including changes at the very senior management level of UN-Habitat. This therefore requires that the new leadership be given leeway and opportunity to manage and to lead the process of selecting the host city for WUF 11. We therefore request the CPR to suspend the call for expression of interest to host WUF11.
Agenda Item 9: Report on the status of Outcome of Habitat III

Mr. Chairman,

We recall that the Habitat3 Secretariat was established to coordinate preparation of the conference which concluded last October in Ecuador. The secretariat was expected to wind down by the end of this month, June, 2017. To this extent, we request the Secretary General of the conference to provide an audited report on Habitat 3, including the expenses and how the finances have been utilized thus far.

Regarding the assessment of the UN-Habitat, we are informed that the panel will be submitting its final report to Member states at the end of July, 2017. The CPR met briefly with the team at the commencement of the GC and shared our views. As the African Group, we have since followed those consultations with written inputs submitted to them.

We are further informed that the team might be in Nairobi next week for further consultations. The Group welcomes them and is prepared to engage more robustly with a view to finding solutions that will make this organization function better by improving its effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, inclusiveness and accountability in service delivery. In if indeed the team is visiting Nairobi, we request for a subcommittee meeting prior to their coming to Nairobi.

The President of the General Assembly has communicated his intentions to convene a two day High Level Meeting from 5 - 6 September, 2017 in New York to discuss the assessment report and the positioning of the UN- Habitat with regards to implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The Group believes that this High Level Meeting will be more valuable if there is effective participation of the CPR which is the intercessional body with vast knowledge and experience on matters affecting the UN-Habitat. We are therefore
requesting the Executive Director to support participation of developing countries in that meeting.

Thank you